



## USDA Agricultural Outlook Forum Student Diversity Program Sponsorship



***Would your agency, corporation, or organization like to sponsor students to attend USDA's 2009 Agricultural Outlook Forum?***

USDA's Outlook Forum Diversity Program has created a sponsorship opportunity for agencies, corporations, and organizations. This program sponsors between 18-22 students to attend USDA's annual 2-day event, promoting participation that will educate students about agribusiness, the latest research, future trends, and policy in contemporary agriculture. These students represent the diversity of American agriculture and are hopefully among the next generation of agricultural industry leaders.

**Sponsorship:** The 2009 Agricultural Outlook Forum will be held February 26-27, 2009, in Arlington, Virginia, at the Crystal Gateway Marriott Hotel. USDA's World Agricultural Outlook Board and Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES) will provide the students with complimentary registration. Partnering sponsors will provide expenses for lodging, meals, and transportation for the students from their college or university to Washington, D.C., arriving February 25, 2009, and returning home February 27, 2009. Sponsors will receive appreciative mention in the Forum program and on the Forum Web site: [www.usda.gov/oce/forum](http://www.usda.gov/oce/forum)

**Selection Criteria:** The Diversity Program targets agriculture, agricultural economics, agricultural communications, agricultural business, or pre-veterinary junior or senior undergraduate students. Participating Land-Grant Colleges and Universities will submit a letter of recommendation from the Dean of the Agricultural Department for up to two students per school along with the student's one-page essay titled "Agriculture as a Career." A CSREES panel provides an initial review of the submissions. Final selections will be made by Dr. Ahmad Jilani, USDA Liaison Officer, University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES). Two positions are reserved for UMES students.

**Travel Itinerary:** Participating students will receive a USDA briefing, and learn about the history of the Forum as well as the current topics. On Wednesday evening, February 25, 2009, students will register for the Forum and attend an informal gathering at the Marriott Hotel. Thursday and Friday they will attend the Forum sessions, including the Thursday evening dinner-lecture session. For information on the 2008 Forum, please visit: [www.usda.gov/oce/forum](http://www.usda.gov/oce/forum)

**Essay Submission Deadline:** November 7, 2008

**Sponsorship Declaration Deadline:** November 14, 2008

**For More Information,** please contact: Brenda Chapin, Forum Coordinator, at 202-720-5447 or [bchapin@oce.usda.gov](mailto:bchapin@oce.usda.gov)

**Past Private-sector Sponsorship Includes:** CHS Foundation, Deere & Company, Farm Credit Bank of Texas, and Tyson Foods.

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